



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor


Human Services Department

Alan Painter, Director

Date: April 1, 2009

To: Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee Members
Tim Burgess, Bruce Harrell, Nick Licata

cc: Councilmember Sally Clark
Councilmember Richard Conlin
Betsy Graef, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Burgess
Patricia Lee, City Council Central Staff
Rob Gala, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Conlin

From:  Al Poole, Division Director,
Human Services Department
Homelessness Intervention and Block Grant Administration

Subject: City Council Budget Action SLI # 101-3-A-1,
Centralize the collection and analysis of hunger program statistics

This memo outlines Human Services Department (HSD) plan to store and report emergency food program data for planning purposes.

Background:

The 2009 Human Services Department budget (HSD) includes \$400,000 added by City Council to address food, hunger and nutrition needs of Seattle's vulnerable populations. The Council also adopted a Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI 101-3-A-1) requesting a centralized collection of hunger program statistics to help the Department respond to emergency food program needs. The Council requested a report on the content of the database and how the new, more comprehensive look at the information affects the Department's ability to plan by April 1, 2009.

SLI Response:

HSD is collecting data on City-funded food banks and home delivery programs. At a minimum the following food bank and home delivery program monthly data will be collected and reported:

- Number of households served (new/unduplicated, cumulative)
- Number of individuals served (new/unduplicated, cumulative)
- Ages of individuals served
- Number of families
- Number of volunteer hours
- Pounds of food

The department will use this data to monitor changes in supply and demand for emergency food programs. HSD has developed an Excel database to collect monthly program report information. Agencies send an activity report with their monthly invoices by the 15th of the following month. Given the agency reporting cycle, data for the first quarterly report will be available the last week of April and will include information for January, February and March 2009.

Over the past two months we have worked with food providers to ensure they collect data required. HSD revised reporting forms to collect important data elements such as income level, unduplicated households and wait lists for the home delivery programs. Agencies have not consistently collected and reported this level of data, but all have agreed to the changes. Some of the new information includes home delivery addresses that will help us map service delivery and help us plan how best to concentrate and coordinate services.

Response to Council Staff Requests:

In January, Council staff met with HSD management and staff to determine 2009 deliverables for the SLI. At this meeting, the group agreed that HSD would provide three report components: quarterly reports on City-funded food bank and home delivery programs, Summer Food and food bank program data comparing the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, and current information from other sources (such as the Children's Alliance or Food Lifeline) that speaks to the demand. The following is our progress to date on the quarterly reports, the comparative program data across the past three years and enrollment data for the Basic Food Program (food stamps).

Quarterly Reports:

As noted above, data for the first quarterly report will be available in late April, and we will submit the report to Council in early May. Future quarterly reports will be available upon request.

Although the quarterly reports will focus on food banks and home delivery program data, HSD also funds eight emergency meal programs at 16 sites. In addition, HSD's Division on Aging and Disability Services funds 11 congregate meal programs in Seattle and three home delivery programs. Please see Attachment A for a list of City-funded programs.

Program Data Comparison for the Years 2006, 2007 and 2008:

The comparative program data below shows increased use of City-funded food programs over the past three years. For the first time this year, the Summer Food program (formerly known as Summer Sack Lunch), operated by HSD, will use bulk food resources to enhance meals to children living in low income communities. The majority of the bulk buy foods are used to supply food banks.

City-Funded Food Bank Data 2006 – 2008

Food Bank Data	2006	2007	2008
Number of unduplicated households	50,884	47,468	67,465
Number of food bank visits	466,303	478,697	503,499
Number of volunteer hours	97,522	113,024	161,687
Number of days open	2,206	2,226	2,574
Pounds of food distributed	11,591,466	10,689,029	14,374,530

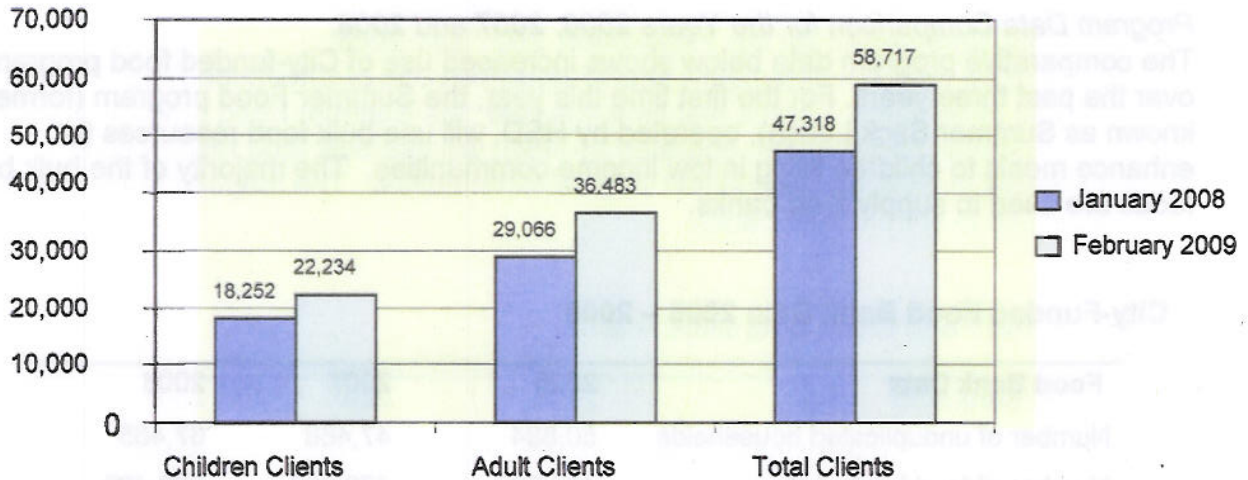
Summer Food Service Program Comparison 2006-2008

	2006	2007	2008
Number of Meal Sites	106	105	102
Number of Children (unduplicated)	5,193	5,038	5,641
Total Breakfasts	40,935	31,233	35,645
Total Lunches	152,132	125,453	142,694
Total Snacks	76,284	59,038	64,401
Total number of Meals	269,351	215,724	242,740

Additional Information Indicating Need and Changing Resources:

Seattle can not address the hunger needs of residents with just City resources. Several state and federal benefits also help people meet basic needs. The Basic Food Program (food stamps) is a significant resource for people struggling to put enough food on their table. The following table shows benefit enrollment changes over the past year.

**Basic Food Program Enrollment
WA State Department of Social and Health Services
Seattle Community Service Offices**



Data Source: Department of Social and Health Services

This increase has been attributed to both increased need as well as changes to program eligibility and benefit amounts. In October 2008, program eligibility increased from 100% of the Federal Poverty Level to 200%. In 2009, the benefit amounts increased by 13%. Below is an abbreviated table reflecting new eligibility and potential household benefit.

Basic Food Program 2009 Income Eligibility and Potential Household Benefit

Household Size	Below Gross Income	2009 Maximum Benefit	2008 Maximum Benefit
1	\$1,127	\$200	\$176
2	\$1,517	\$367	\$323
3	\$1,907	\$526	\$463
4	\$2,297	\$668	\$588
5	\$2,687	\$793	\$698
6	\$3,077	\$952	\$838
7	\$3,467	\$1052	\$926

If you have any questions about this material, please contact my staff, Judy Summerfield, at judy.summerfield@seattle.gov, or by phone, (206) 684-0569.

ATTACHMENT A

CITY-FUNDED/ADMINISTERED FOOD PROGRAMS

Food Banks

- Asian Counseling & Referral Service
- Ballard Food Bank
- Beacon Avenue Food Bank
- Central Area Motivation Program
- Pike Market Senior Center – Downtown Food Bank
- El Centro de la Raza
- FamilyWorks
- Food Bank at St. Mary's
- North Helpline- Lake City Food Bank
- Rainier Valley Food Bank
- Seattle Indian Center
- Spiritual Miracles Food Bank
- St. Vincent de Paul
- University District Food Bank
- Volunteers of America – Greenwood Food Bank
- West Seattle Food Bank

Meal Programs

- Asian Counseling & Referral Service
 - Korean Senior Club
 - Vietnamese Friendship Association Soup Line
 - Friendly Island of Tonga Seniors
 - Samoana Senior Club
- Community House Mental Health
- El Centro de la Raza
- OPERATION: Sack Lunch
- OPERATION: Sack Lunch Outdoor Meal Site
- Phinney Neighborhood Association
- ROOTS/Shalom Zone
- Seattle Indian Center

Home Delivery Programs

- Jewish Family Service
- FamilyWorks
- Lifelong AIDS Alliance Chicken Soup Brigade
 - Solid Ground Partners in Caring
- The Food Bank @ St. Mary's
- Volunteers of America
- West Seattle Food Bank

Aging and Disability Services (ADS) Congregate Meal Programs

- Ballard Senior Center/Northwest
- Central Area Senior Center
- Kawabe Memorial House
- Kline Galland Nursing Home
- Refugee Women's Alliance
- South Park Neighborhood Association/Senior Center
- Somali Community Center
- Somali Community Services of Seattle
- Southeast Senior Center
- Wallingford Senior Center
- West Seattle Senior Center

ADS Home Delivery Programs

- Chicken Soup Brigade
- El Centro de la Raza
- Meals on Wheels